

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RUSU REGULATION CHANGES – JUNE 2026

The following are the proposed changes to the RUSU Regulations, which will be considered at the Student Union Council Meeting on 23 June 2026

### PROPOSED Changes

#### Team Registration - Increased number of students required to support application (6.6.1.1)

The current regulations (6.6.1.1) requires that applications to form a team are supported by at least 25 current RMIT students.

We propose increasing this to 35 current students. This reflects the growth in numbers of RMIT students and significantly increased student engagement with RUSU's annual elections.

#### Team Registration (6.6.4.11)

The RUSU regulations contain specific provisions around the use of a Team name that has been used in recent elections. The updates to the regulations (6.6.4.11 (a) and (b)) make it clear that a Team only requires the written permission of **one** of the previous registering officers in order to use the name.

#### Prohibiting NUS campaigners (6.10)

This change explicitly prohibits NUS National Officers and NUS State Officers (State President & State Education Vice-President as defined in the NUS Regulations) from campaigning in RUSU elections. This is currently a requirement in NUS By-laws. This change makes the rule explicitly clear in RUSU's Regulations.

#### Setting maximum time limit to claim election reimbursements (6.14.2.5)

Regulation 6.14.2.5 currently specifies that receipt/s to claim election expenses must be submitted within a reasonable time frame, (no more than two (2) weeks following the declaration of results). We propose inserting clause 6.14.2.6 to make it clear that if receipt/s to claim election expenses are not provided within 4 weeks of the declaration of results, that they will not be reimbursed by RUSU.

### PROPOSED Changes – TRACKED CHANGES

#### SECTION 6: ELECTORAL

6.6.1.1 Applications for team registrations shall close 48 hours prior to the close of nominations and shall include:

- a) The name of the team (to be no longer than two words) and any abbreviation thereof;
- b) The logo and colour scheme, if any, to be used by the team;
- c) Two registering officers for the team who shall be the contact points between the team and Election Officials. They must be a candidate for that team and a current financial member of the RMIT University Student Union.

6.6.1.2 The application must contain the name, contact details, student number and signatures of at least thirty five (35) current RMIT students who endorse the team and who must be current financial members of the RMIT University Student Union.

6.6.1.3 The list of candidates for a Team is not required at the time of Team registration. In the event that a Team fails to meet the minimum candidates required by sections 6.6.4.2 (a), (b) or (c) (as applicable) after the close of nominations, the Returning Officer shall withdraw approval of the Team registration.

6.6.1.4 No student may endorse (via signature or approved electronic verification) more than one team application and no candidate standing on a team may sign an application for a different team. Students endorsing a team application cannot withdraw the endorsement after the deadline for applications to be submitted has lapsed or the application has been approved by the Returning Officer.

6.6.1.5 When a team is registered the Returning Officer must post the details of the team name, logo, colour scheme on the official election notice board (RUSU Website) within 24 hours (on business days) of the registration application being received.

6.6.1.6 Team names must not include the name of a club or society affiliated with the Student Union or any RMIT Student Life or RMIT University Club, Collective or Society.

6.6.1.7 Team names must not incorporate or utilise the name of university departments or programs. An exception will be made (and the name allowed) where the electoral team name registration (in current or previous elections within the last 3 years) predates the use of the name by the RMIT University department or program.

6.6.1.8 Team names may not be greater than two (2) words.

6.6.1.9 If the proposed name of a team includes the name of a team used in any RMIT election in the past three years,

a) The application must include the consent of one of the team's most recent registering officers,

b) If the consent of one of the team's most recent registering officers has been gained, the use of the name may be disputed by other candidates. A dispute to the right to use the name must be made in writing to the Returning Officer and must outline clearly why the use of the name would be misleading or confusing to voters or misrepresentative. The written dispute must be made by a candidate running in the current election and have the signed support of at least one candidate who previously ran as a candidate under the team name being disputed. The dispute must be lodged within 24 hours (business days) of the team name being posted in official channels by the Returning Officer as per 6.6.4.7. If the Returning Officer finds that the dispute has merit, then they may refuse to register the team name to any team for the elections and shall give the team that registered the name the option of choosing another name.

6.6.1.10 The Returning Officer may refuse to register a team name that; breaches 6.6.4.8, 6.6.4.9, is misleading, offensive, or that is so similar to another proposed team name or names as potentially to cause confusion amongst voters and shall give the applicant the option of choosing another name.

6.6.1.11 The Returning Officer may refuse to register a team logo or colour scheme that is misleading, offensive, or that is so similar to another proposed team logo or colour scheme as potentially to cause confusion amongst voters and shall give the applicant the option of choosing another team logo or colour scheme.

6.6.1.12 If a team name is proposed by more than one applicant, the team who first submitted the name shall be approved, all other criteria being in order as determined by the Returning Officer, and the other applicant shall be given the option of choosing another name.

## Section 6.10

### Campaign Assistants

6.10.1 Any person that campaigns on behalf of a candidate or a team shall be considered to be a Campaign Assistant. Campaign Assistants must be currently enrolled students attending RMIT.

6.10.2 NUS National Officers and NUS State Officers (State President & State Education Vice-President) shall not be involved in campaigning in RUSU elections. This applies even where the person is a currently enrolled RMIT student.

6.10.3 Any candidate or team benefitting from the actions of non-RMIT students or NUS officers prohibited

from campaigning under 6.10.2 may be subject to disciplinary action by the Returning Officer.

- 6.10.4 The Returning Officer shall have the authority to ask RMIT Security to remove any non-RMIT students who the Returning Officer observes or has reason to believe is involved in campaigning or in the operations of the elections.
- 6.10.5 The Returning Officer shall have the authority to require a candidate or Team to ensure that non-RMIT students believed to be campaigning on their behalf cease campaigning and leave campus.
- 6.10.6 Campaign Assistants shall be invited to attend a brief online information session held by the Returning Officer regarding conduct during an election.
- 6.10.7 Candidates and/or teams remain responsible for any actions of Campaign Assistants.
- 6.10.8 Candidates and/or teams must provide a list of campaign assistants to the Returning Officer prior to the commencement of polling. This list may be updated throughout the polling period.
- 6.10.9 Campaign assistants must be clearly identifiable as such.
- 6.10.10 All candidates involved in campaigning and all campaign assistants must be clearly identifiable when campaigning. Where they are campaigning for a Team or candidate who is a member of a Team, it must be clear which Team they are campaigning for. Where campaigning for a Team, campaigners must wear the identifiable team T-shirt. Where campaigners are not aligned with a registered Team or the Team does not have T-shirts, the Returning Officer will determine how they shall be easily identified (e.g. lanyards).

#### Section 6.14

#### Election Resources

- 6.14.1.1 Should Candidates or Teams wish to spend funds as specified in section 6.14.2.2, 6.14.2.3, 6.14.2.4, 6.14.3.1 and 6.14.3.2 of these regulations they must submit a budget containing details of proposed expenditure and if required accompanying quotes to the Returning Officer no less than 3 academic days prior to the first day of polling. If the Returning Officer is satisfied that Candidates will not exceed the spending limit the Returning Officer shall authorise the expenditure. Upon presentation of a receipt/s, within a reasonable time frame, (no more than two (2) weeks following the declaration of results), which correspond with the authorised budget, the Returning Officer shall organise reimbursement within two (2) weeks. Candidates who exceed the spending limit shall be subject to disciplinary action and shall not be reimbursed above the set limit.
- 6.14.1.2 Where candidates and/or Teams do not present receipts for expenditure on election expenses as per 6.14 within four (4) weeks of the declaration of the election, they shall not be reimbursed for these expenses by RUSU
- 6.14.1.3 Where candidates are elected unopposed campaign funding as outlined above shall still be provided.